

Message Text

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44

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3095

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

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AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

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E.O. 11652: NXA

TAGS: ECON, PINT, DA

SUBJECT: GOVERNMENT SETS EXTRAORDINARY PARLIAMENTARY SESSION

REF: COPENHAGEN 2392

1. AS EXPECTED (SEE REFTTEL), JOCKEYING AMONG THE PARTIES HAS BECOME INTENSE AS AUGUST PROGRESSES. THE MAJOR ANTAGONISTS, THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS AND THE OPPOSITION LIBERALS, ARE CURRENTLY TESTING THEIR RELATIVE STRENGTH.

2. THE LATEST DEVELOPMENT IN THIS WAR OF NERVES IS A GOVERNMENT DECISION TO CONVENE PARLIAMENT IN A WEEK-LONG EXTRAORDINARY SESSION BEGINNING AUGUST 23, SOME TWO WEEKS EARLIER THAN HAD BEEN SCHEDULED.

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BY MOVING THE EXTRAORDINARY SESSION FORWARD FROM SEPTEMBER 6 (THE ORDINARY SESSION BEGINS IN OCTOBER), THE GOVERNMENT IN EFFECT

IS FORCING A QUICKER SHOWDOWN ON CONTINUATION OF THE SEPTEMBER
COMPRIMSE VERSUS NEW ELECTIONS.

3. WHETHER THERE WILL BE ELECTIONS OR NOT DEPENDS TO A LARGE
EXTENT ON THE BEHAVIOR OF THE SMALL PARTIES IN THE SEPTEMBER
COMPROMISE. THUS FAR THOSE PARTIES GIVE THE APPEARANCE OF
BEING MORE HELPFUL TO THE GOVERNMENT THAN TO THE LIBERALS.
THEY HAVE, FOR EXAMPLE, MADE DECLARATIONS IN FAVOR OF CONTINUED
COMPROMISE AND ALL THREE OF THEM, UNLIKE THE LIBERALS, HAVE
ENDORSED THE GOVERNMENT'S DECISION TO MOVE THE EXTRAORDINARY
FOLKETING SESSION FORWARD.
DEAN

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